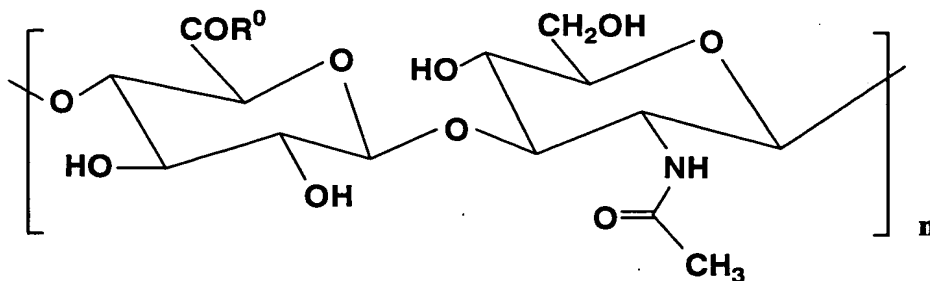


## CLAIMS

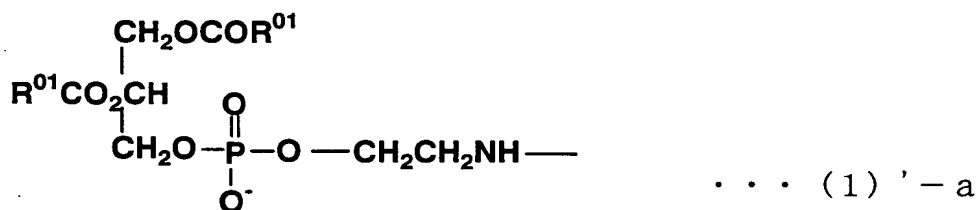
1. (Amended) A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



5

... (1)'

wherein  $R^0$  is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



... (1)' - a

wherein  $R^{01}$  is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and  $n$  is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of  $R^0$  is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a.

2. The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein  $n$  is 300 to 30,000.

3. (Amended) The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two  $R^{01}CO-$ 's in the formula (1)'-a are both oleoyl groups.

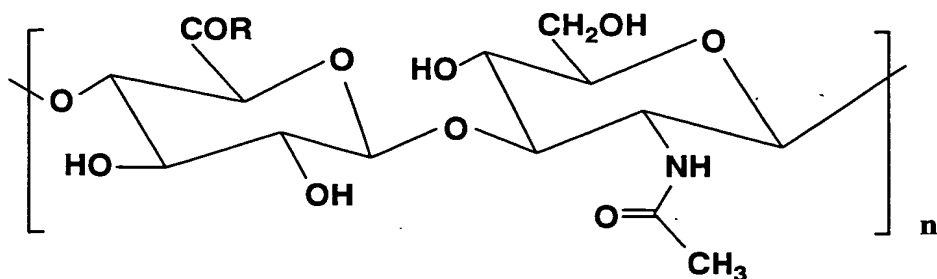
20

4. A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

25

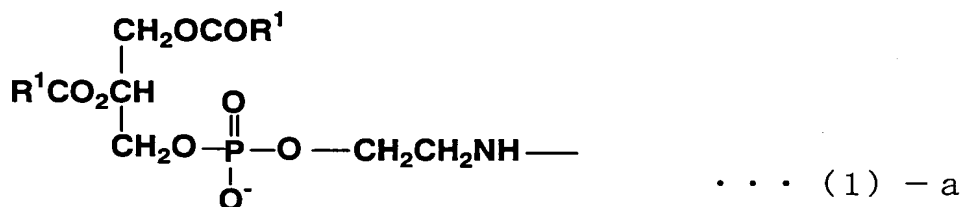
6. (Amended) A joint treating material comprising a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



5

... (1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



10 wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,  
and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a.

15

7. The joint treating material according to claim 6 which has cartilage restoring ability.

8. (Amended) Use of the hyaluronic acid compound  
20 represented by the above formula (1) as a joint treating material.